

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 OPIC-03

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R 240515Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4067

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 2809

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EINV, SY

SUBJ: TRADE ACT OF 1974 - COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY FOR GENERALIZED
PREFERENCES (GSP)

REF: STATE 168984

1. AS INDICATED IN STATE 66541, SYRIA HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS
AN ELIGIBLE COUNTRY FOR GSP. REFTEL REQUESTS STATUS REPORT
ON COUNTRY ELGIBILITY UNDER SECTIONS 502(B)(4) AND (6) OF
TITLE V OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974 (AS DESCRIBED IN STATE 282968,
DEC 28, 1974):

A. SECTION 502(B)(4): WHILE SYRIA DOES FALL UNDER SUB-
SECTION (4)(A) CONCERNING NATIONALIZATION OF U.S. CITIZEN OR
CORPORATE PROPERTY, SYRIA ALSO FALLS UNDER SUB-SECTION (D)(II)
IN THAT IT HAS TAKEN STEPS TO DISCHARGE ITS OBLIGATIONS. AS
REPORTED PARA 7, DAMASCUS 2990 OF DEC 16, 1974, SARG
AGREED TO OUR TEXTS OF NOTICES TO BE
PUBLISHED BY USG CONCERNING PRIVATE CLAIMS. SUCH NOTICE FOR
FILING CLAIMS WAS PUBLISHED ON JAN 27, 1975, AND CLAIMANTS
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WERE GIVEN FROM FEBRUARY 3 TO AUGUST 4, 1975 TO FILE CLAIMS

WITH THE DEPARTMENT. EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF LATEST STATUS OF SUCH FILINGS AND UNTIL SUCH STATUS IS KNOWN, WE CANNOT COMMENT ON FURTHER STEPS THAT WILL NEED TO BE TAKEN SO AS TO CONTINUE SYRIA'S GSP ELIGIBILITY UNDER SUB-SEC (4)(D).

B. SEC 502(B)(6): THIS SECTION CONCERNS COUNTRIES FAILING TO ACT IN GOOD FAITH IN RECOGNIZING AS BINDING OR IN ENFORCING ARBITRAL AWARDS IN FAVOR OF US CITIZENS OR A CORPORATION, ETC. WE HAVE NO RECORD OF ANY SUCH ARBITRAL AWARDS AND THEREFORE HAVE NO DEVELOPMENTS TO REPORT.

2. AS TO WHAT STEPS MIGHT PROFITABLY BE TAKEN TO HELP RESOLVE CLAIMS CASES, UNTIL SUCH CLAIMS HAVE BEEN FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT, AS INDICATED ABOVE, WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS AT THIS TIME. SINCE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS LAST YEAR, WE HAVE ENCOURAGED DEVELOPMENT OF CLOSE SARG/USG ECONOMIC RELATIONS. HIGH-LEVEL SYRIAN EFFORT TO ATTRACT US FIRMS TO WORK IN COUNTRY AND RAPIDLY RISING LEVEL OF SYRIAN IMPORTS FROM US SHOULD AUGER WELL FOR COMPENSATION NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WE ASSUME WOULD FOLLOW OFFICIAL FILING OF CLAIMS (TO END AUGUST 4, 1975). ONE CLAIMANT, WHICH WE ASSUME WILL HAVE FILED, IS EXXON IN THE CASE OF ITS NATIONALIZED (1965) DISTRIBUTION NETWORK IN SYRIA. WE ARE AWARE EXXON IS CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH SYRIAN OFFICIALS ON THIS CLAIM AND ON SARG CUSTOMS CASE COUNTERCLAIM. EXXON HAS NOT REQUESTED ANY OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIONS ON OUR PART, BUT WE HAVE EXCHANGED VIEWS REGULARLY WITH THE EXXON NEGOTIATOR. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH EXXON, BEARING IN MIND WHAT STEPS EMBASSY MIGHT TAKE TO ASSIST EXXON SHOULD SUCH ASSISTANCE BE REQUESTED IN THE FUTURE.
MURPHY

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